



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/735,644

12/16/2003

Jun Fujimoto

024016-00074

3541

4372 7590 03/17/2008
ARENT FOX LLP
1050 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W.
SUITE 400
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

EXAMINER

RENDON, CHRISTIAN E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3714

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/17/2008

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

DCIPDocket@arentfox.com
IPMatters@arentfox.com
Patent_Mail@arentfox.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/735,644	Applicant(s) FUJIMOTO, JUN	
	Examiner CHRISTIAN E. RENDÓN	Art Unit 3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 February 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over French (US 5,651,548) in view of Vuong et al. (US 2002/0147042 A1) and Walker (US 2002/0123376 A1).

1. French discloses a management system for the tracking and recording of the player's betting activities and chip movement (French: col. 3, lines 35-47). The monitored activities are occurring on a game table that utilizes gaming chips such as roulette (French: col. 2, lines 65-67). A player identifies themselves at the table by swiping a machine readable card (French: col. 3, lines 44-47) allowing the system to associate them to their gaming chips, which each contain an antenna (French: col. 4, lines 45-48). Each chip transmits its value allowing the system to identify the player's total bet and award the player comps based on their betting activity (French: col. 3, lines 36-42) or history. The system further compiles the bet totals of a particular player as a means to establish a win-loss record for the game table operator (French: col. 3, lines 48-49).

2. Vuong teaches a system for detecting the outcome of a game of chance (Vuong: par. 9, lines 1-2). In other words, a roulette wheel containing wireless receiver in each slot interacts with a transmitter located inside a roulette ball (Vuong: par. 65). Therefore the system is able to identify which slot the ball has landed into (Vuong: par. 11) based on which receiver obtains the signal. Through the gaming objects the system is able to track the number of wins, loses and game results of both the player and the dealer (Vuong: par. 89, lines 7-10). The identity of the player and a line of credit or deposit is established by swiping a casino distributed player ID card or their own credit card (Vuong: par. 90).

3. French discloses a system that tracks the movement of casino chips (French: abstract), a player's betting history (French: col. 3, lines 36-42) and a game operator's activities (French: col. 3, lines 48-49) in an effort to monitor all the activities occurring in the casino. French further discloses

that other components of a gaming table could be included with radio transmitters and receivers to obtain information about the activities occurring at the table (French: col. 3, lines 12-17). Therefore one of ordinary skill would include the teachings of Vuong as a means to further increase the monitoring capabilities of the system disclosed by French. In others words, the radio frequency (RF) system included into the roulette wheel allows for a casino establishment to electronically monitor and record the game progress without depending on the integrity of the gaming table operator (French: col. 2, lines 34-35).

4. Walker teaches the use of a pressure sensor to determine the number of chips a player has wagered (Walker: par. 141, lines 4-6) by simply dividing the total weight by the unit weight of a chip. French discloses a desire to prevent the use of counterfeit chips at gaming tables (French: col. 2, lines 26-27). Therefore one of ordinary skill would include the teachings of Walker as an additional means for detecting the use of counterfeit chips into the system disclosed by French. In other words, the pressure sensors and the 'number of chips' algorithm allows a casino to detect manufactured chips that contain the right RF ID tags but the wrong unit weight.

5. Regarding claims 1-17, the applicant's limitations towards gaming tables monitoring the progress of a game are taught by the art combination of French, Vuong and Walker as described above. RF signals are transmitted in a circular pattern increasing the diameter of the signal as it moves away from the transmitter. Therefore a system containing multiple transmitters and receivers as described by the prior arts would contain signals that cross each other (Vuong: par. 65). Furthermore a transmitted signal in an RF system contains some form of identification as a means to distinguish itself from all of the other transmitters (French: abstract). The confirmation of the ID tag obtained from a roulette ball as a means to verify the integrity of the game and the operator (French: col. 3, lines 48-49) is within the scope of the art combination.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHRISTIAN E. RENDÓN whose telephone number is (571)272-3117. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai can be reached on 571-272-7147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CHRISTIAN E RENDÓN
Examiner
Art Unit 3714

CER
/XUAN M. THAI/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3714